

Union Calendar No. 485

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5132

[Report No. 107-771]

To express the sense of Congress concerning the fiscal year 2003 end strengths needed for the Armed Forces to fight the War on Terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2002

Mr. SKELTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

NOVEMBER 4, 2002

Additional sponsors: Mr. McHUGH and Mr. SNYDER

NOVEMBER 4, 2002

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Omit the part struck through]

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress concerning the fiscal year 2003 end strengths needed for the Armed Forces to fight the War on Terrorism.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS CONCERNING FISCAL YEAR 2003 END**
2 **STRENGTHS NEEDED FOR THE ARMED**
3 **FORCES TO FIGHT THE WAR ON TERRORISM.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Before September 11, 2001, the uniformed
6 chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine
7 Corps testified before the Committee on Armed
8 Services of the House of Representatives that they
9 did not have sufficient personnel to meet all their
10 current operational requirements.

11 (2) Since September 11, 2001, Admiral Dennis
12 Blair, then-commander of the United States Pacific
13 Command, General Joseph Ralston, commander of
14 the United States European Command, and General
15 William Kernan, commander of United States Joint
16 Forces Command, have testified before that com-
17 mittee that United States military forces are being
18 stressed by the increased operational tempo and
19 have insufficient forces to fully meet their war-fight-
20 ing requirements and to fully execute all assigned
21 missions and that further strains on the Armed
22 Forces may be anticipated.

23 (3) Following the terrorist attacks against the
24 United States on September 11, 2001, Congress
25 adopted a joint resolution (Public Law 107–40) au-
26 thorizing the President to use all necessary and ap-

1 appropriate force against those nations, organizations,
2 and persons he determines planned, authorized, com-
3 mitted, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred
4 on September 11, 2001.

5 (4) Since the adoption of that resolution,
6 United States Armed Forces have been actively wag-
7 ing war against terrorists and terrorism around the
8 globe in operations known as Operation Noble Eagle
9 and Operation Enduring Freedom.

10 (5) In the prosecution of the war against ter-
11 rorism, thousands of active-duty servicemembers and
12 over 80,000 reservists and National Guard members
13 have participated in Operations Noble Eagle and
14 Enduring Freedom.

15 (6) President Bush has publicly stated numer-
16 ous times that the war on terrorism will continue for
17 some time.

18 (7) United States forces are currently searching
19 for terrorists in Afghanistan, helping fight terrorism
20 in the Philippines, training military forces in the Re-
21 public of Georgia, equipping and training govern-
22 ment forces in Columbia, and aiding the peace proc-
23 ess in the Balkans and Kosovo.

24 (8) The pace of operations for United States
25 military personnel has only increased since Sep-

1 tember 11, 2001, and that pace increases the strain
2 on servicemembers and their families.

3 (9) Prosecuting the war on terrorism will re-
4 quire increased expenditures for military personnel,
5 operations and maintenance, and for the procure-
6 ment of equipment that is lost, expended or con-
7 sumed.

8 (10) In response to the increased missions for
9 military personnel associated with the prosecution of
10 the war on terrorism, the House of Representatives
11 and the Senate, in their respective versions of the
12 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
13 2003, have each voted to increase the authorizations
14 for military end strengths above the level requested
15 by the President in his defense budget for fiscal year
16 2003.

17 (11) Recent press reports indicate that the Sec-
18 retary of Defense has under consideration substan-
19 tial reductions in military end strengths below the
20 levels proposed to be authorized in the House and
21 Senate versions of the National Defense Authoriza-
22 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2003.

23 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 In light of the findings in section 1, it is the sense
25 of Congress that—

1 (1) the increases in end-strength authorizations
2 for the Armed Forces for fiscal year 2003 that are
3 recommended by the Senate and House of Rep-
4 resentatives in their respective versions of the Na-
5 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
6 2003 are wholly appropriate and justified by the in-
7 creased missions and tempo of operations associated
8 with prosecution of the war against terrorism;

9 (2) the President and Secretary of Defense
10 should not reduce, or seek to reduce, the number of
11 members of the Armed Forces ~~so long as the Nation~~
12 ~~is at war against terrorism~~; and

13 (3) the President should support the increase in
14 end-strengths for the Armed Forces recommended
15 by the Senate and House of Representatives for fis-
16 cal year 2003 due to the exigencies of the war
17 against terrorism.

Union Calendar No. 485

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5132

[Report No. 107-771]

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress concerning the
fiscal year 2003 end strengths needed for the
Armed Forces to fight the War on Terrorism.

NOVEMBER 4, 2002

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Com-
mittee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,
and ordered to be printed